

Questions for Invited Speakers

December 1-2 Meeting of the Delta Independent Science Board

The Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) has been charged by the Legislature with providing “oversight of the scientific research, monitoring, and assessment programs that support adaptive management of the Delta through periodic reviews...” (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act 2009). This review of Delta science by the Delta ISB is being undertaken in a manner to help inform the development of the Delta Science Plan, which is called for in the Delta Plan. The Science Plan will strive to facilitate and coordinate science efforts to better serve Delta policymaking and management.

On December 1-2, 2011, the Delta ISB will engage in a discussion with elected officials, agency heads, and leaders from stakeholder organizations that use Delta science to make management decisions. The information obtained from these discussions will be used by the Delta ISB to develop a broad assessment of the organization and operation of science in the Delta and to identify and prioritize the programs they will review.

Below are questions the Delta ISB is asking each organization to address. They are intentionally broad, so attendees are encouraged to focus only on those that are the most applicable to their organization. Attendees are also encouraged to submit written comments.

1. In what ways do you feel Delta science is a) meeting the challenges of water and environmental management in the Delta, and/or b) not meeting these challenges?
2. What factors have led to science being effective in addressing today's critical issues, and what factors have led to it being ineffective?
3. What are the emerging critical issues in the Delta that science will need to have addressed a decade from now?
4. What should we be doing now and over the next few years to ensure these scientific issues are addressed?
5. To what extent is poor or incomplete communication of science an issue in the Delta? How can and how should the communication of science be improved?
6. Should separate and distinct roles be assigned to different sectors of the science community in the Delta (e.g., state agency scientists, academic scientists, NGO scientists, federal agency scientists, consulting firm scientists, water contractors, and municipal utility districts)? If so, what are these separate and distinct roles?
7. The Legislature mandates the Delta ISB to review and assess science programs related to the Delta, covering each science program at least every four years. The Delta ISB would appreciate your advice on how to define a science program and which of the programs merit different levels of reviews.